

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of digital video program reproduction within defined premises, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of electronic audio-visual programs;

storing said programs in a centralized memory;

providing a first program reproduction device and a second reproduction device adapted to reproduce programs for viewers/users;

networking said centralized memory and said first and second program reproduction devices together;

selecting a program as a selected program ("selected program");

distributing the ability to control reproduction of said selected program among the first and second reproduction devices so that, at the selection of a viewer, said reproduction of said selected program is seamless between said reproduction devices such that the first reproduction device may live-pause the reproduction of the selected program and the second reproduction device may resume reproduction of the selected program;

designating as part of a hierarchy, a control ranking to each of said first and second reproduction devices; and

during control conflicts, allowing the reproduction device attempting to control playback having the highest control ranking, to control the reproduction of said selected program.

2. (previously presented) The method in claim 1, wherein first and second reproduction devices contemporaneously display said selected program.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The method in claim 1, further comprising:

designating the first reproduction device as a master device;

designating the second reproduction device as a slave device; and

during control conflicts involving the master device and the slave device, allowing the master reproduction device to control playback of said selected program.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The method in claim 1, further comprising:

viewing a selected program via a first reproduction device;

establishing a pause point;

pausing the playback of said selected program via said first reproduction device; and

resuming the playback of said selected program via the second reproduction device from said pause point.

7. (previously presented) The method in claim 5 1 wherein the first and second reproduction devices are capable of reproducing a selected program independently.

8. (previously presented) A system for digital video program reproduction within defined premises, said system comprising:

 a program receiver adapted to receive a plurality of electronic audio-visual programs; a central memory adapted to store said programs;

 a first program reproduction device and a second program reproduction device each adapted to reproduce programs for viewers/users; and

 a network adapted to network said central memory and said first and second program reproduction devices; wherein the ability to control live-pause reproduction of a selected program among the first and second reproduction devices is distributed so that, at the selection of a viewer, said live-pause reproduction of said selected program is seamless between said first and second reproduction devices,

 wherein each of said first and second reproduction devices are designated to have, as part of a hierarchy, a control ranking, and during control conflicts, the reproduction device attempting to control playback having the highest control ranking, controls the reproduction of said selected program.

9. (previously presented) The system in claim 8, wherein said central memory is part of a server.

10. (previously presented) The system in claim 8, wherein said first and second reproduction devices contemporaneously display said selected program.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The system in claim 8, wherein the first reproduction device is designated as a "master device," and the second reproduction device is designated as "slave devices," and during control conflicts involving the master device and slave devices, the master reproduction device controls playback of said selected program.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The system in claim 8, wherein said system is adapted to allow viewing a selected program via the first reproduction device, establish a pause point, pause the playback of said selected program via said first reproduction device, and resume the playback of said selected program via the second reproduction device from said pause point.

15. (previously presented) The system in claim 8 wherein the first and second reproduction devices are adapted to reproduce a selected program independently.

16-17. (Cancelled)